Andy W

Manchester FREE PRESS

5p

Issue 26

THE NEWS YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO KNOW

INSIDE STORIES

NEWS

PAGE 3: Developers plan to carve-up Stockport parkland.

PAGE 5: The low price of asbestosis - Cape gets off lightly.

PAGE 6: Living over a council duck pond for 16 years.

PAGE 8: Women's illnesses - what the doctor doesn't say

Page 9: The Doyles v. the police - MP gets report.

WELFARE

PAGE 10: Mental Patients' Union take on the headshrinkers.

PAGE 12: Welfare Rights Part 2.

DAISY'S DIARY

Daisy digs the dirt. P 9

AND LOTS MORE INSIDE

FROM OUR READERS

Fight SPUC

Dear Free Press,

We would like to draw your readers' attention to the current activities of SPUC, the largest and most active of the anti-abortion groups. After the last election, they called on their supporters to join the party of candidates who had come out against abortion regardless of any other policies held by them. Such candidates include National Front and rightwing Tories. Also, unfortunately, a few Labour. Now they are conducting a write-in campaign, as a result of which some MPs have publically changed their stand. A few thousand letters have already gone to the DHSS and this may influence Barbara Castle to reject the findings of the Lane Committee. She may feel that giving free contraception obviates the need for abortions - and that retaining the latter may lose votes.

However many letters SPUC sends, it cannot equal the number of women who annually have legal abortions. Any restrictions on legal terminations will result, not in fewer abortions, but resort to dangerous back-street operations. Any restrictions will hit the working class hardest. SPUC's campaign is inherently undemocratic - it is seeking to deny to others what they (SPUC) consider to be wrong, on evidence which is at best questionable, at worst unprovable and personal.

Both in its supporters and in its policies, SPUC represents reaction. We call on all your readers to back the anti-SPUC campaign. We are producing pre-printed postcards, addressed to the DHSS, and letters for sending to your own MP. These will be available at a low cost from us. We are also producing a series of posters and stickers. It took women a long time to get the little way we have. Don't let us lose it now.

Yours fraternally,
Sue & Leonora,
pp National Ad-hoc Committee
Against SPUC,
54 Pinner Road,
Harrow, Middlesex.

No sandwiches

Dear Free Press,

We've opened a place in Stockport based on a shop front on the main Stockport-Cheadle road. This is both a place where 3 of us live & also a source of badly needed funds by selling good clothes & household things very cheaply tolocals and handicrafts, semi-antiques etc to passing Cheadlites. It should also become a source of basic information on rights claims but we don't want to fall into the trap of giving ignorant advice. So we'll know hopefully where that can be had. Also we hope to provide in time practical facilities like a basic workshop. The idea is to avoid being a fund raising charity shop & to give a bit too, so we opened on Friday without the usual mayorial speech and cucumber sandwiches. If anyone's passing feel welcome to call in,

Ian Stuart,
Community Transport,
The Tusky Dog,
25 Stockport Road,
Gorsey Bank,
Stockport. 477 2301
(For other work done by CT see ads and info - us)

Mandel the last word

IMG's copious reply to the Freep report on Ernest Mandel's press conference in Manchester calls for a few words of explanation from our reporter. In view of IMG's well-known and long-standing slogan 'Victory to the IRA', it was inderstandable that we would want to ask questions on this subject. Mandel is, after all, regarded as the chief Marxist theoretician of the Fourth International.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

PUBLISHED BY MANCHESTER FREE PRESS GROUP, 8a Raynham Avenue, Mchr 20 061-434 1591

PRINTED BY MOSS SIDE PRESS, 21a Princess Road, Manchester 14 061-226 7115

DISTRIBUTED BY US

DESIGN BY SNAIL GRAPHICS

ADS: Classified 2p a word. Free insert in info list. Display rates on request.

PICTURES by Ed Lowe

EDITORIAL GROUP:
Harry Baumgartl
Cynthia Drew
Rachel Brown
Paula Carson
John Doherty
Susan Kirsch
Simon Nail
Percy Smooth

Subscribe!

It has come to my notice, ladies and gentlemen, that not everyone is taking out a subscription to Free Press which makes you feel good all over.

Those who have can testify to it wonderous properties.

So get your finger out and send £1.10 (incl post) while stocks last.

Or I'll bash you over the head and have your liver

name

address

I enclose cheque/PO for 95p

On the membership form put out by Colin Jordan's fascist British Movement is to be found this little gem: "Do you have a drum .. do you have the use of a drum.. Can you or your friends use a drum..?"

Kids misguided enough to want to join the Greater Manchester Police cadets have to fill in a form which asks if they have had VD, ulcers, St Vitus Dance, nerves, fits, deformed toes or flat feet.

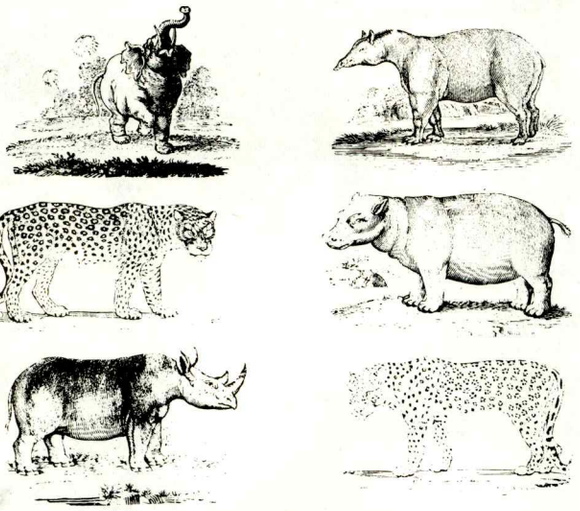
If you trip and break your neck on a public pavement the GMC have decided in their wisdom not to pay compensation if the obstacle is less than one inch high.

Great decisions have to be made by Cllr Grant, chairman of the environmental services committee. The other day he authorised the use of a department vehicle to convey 2 Wombles from Piccadilly Station to a city store.

Moorbank, the council hostel for homeless women and their kids in Fallowfield, has been closed for new admissions because of an outbreak of dysentry. This may have had something to do with the fact that several families have had to sleep in the same rooms and the place has been over-run with mice.

nuff said

Fun & big games in Stockport



THE CURRENT unsavoury, though lucrative, craze for replacing open space with buildings and unorganised leisure with pre-packed pleasure dromes is now theatening Stockport. Proposals have recently been put forward to "develop" a large 120 acre site on the banks of the River Tame in Reddish Vale - one of the few remaining areas of relatively unspoiled land available to local people which could be converted at comparatively little cost into a superb amenity.

Earlier attempts to grab this valuable, mainly Green Belt site have produced some bizarre, not to say ludicrous schemes. One project put forward - and mercifully rejected- last year envisaged building in the Vale Stockport's answer to Kenya's Serengeti National Park: a safari park, no doubt complete with crocodiles basking in the mysterious ooze of the Tame. Another idea put up not so long ago included an artificial ski-run.

The present proposals, drawn up for the would-be developer Mr. Laurie Finucane of Marple by the internationally known firm of planning consultants Gillinson, Barnett and Partners, are marginally less outlandish. Mr Laurie Finucane's development company is FPA Falcovant, a subsidiary of the Sheffield-based FPA Construction group which has big interests in house-building and leisure centres - including the Sands disco at Stretford.

The Gillinson Barnett plans contain three main elements, based on the most profitable component of 500 houses on 40 acres of the site. The houses will probably be private and priced up to £30,000 each. The second part is a £500,000 leisure centre based on the Old Mill with the usual badminton and squash courts, sauna, theatre club and disco, huge car park and restaurant. Finally, in a rather crude attempt to forstall local opposition, the plan offers 60 acres plus cash to Stockport council for an open park with scenic walks and sports facilities.

Despite this attempt to put some gilt on the gingerbread, fierce local opposition can be expected, particularly since a prominent Tory councillor John Lloyd lives but a tennis court away from the development. And despite the consultants' declared intention to have public participation, both the Reddish Road Tenants' Association and the South Reddish Action Committee have been unable to get a meeting organised. Both groups are against the plans. The developers chances may also be undermined by the fact that he doesn't actually own all the land covered by the scheme. Indeed, at present, he doesn't own any of it. A large part of the site is owned by the big Bootle construction firm of Norwest Holst and Mr Finucane only has an option to buy. Other parts are owned by the Reddish golf course and Stockport council and several land swops will be needed to make the plans viable. Such deals will be vigorously opposed by Labour councillors Bradbury, Foster and Verdeille who argue that most of the land should be taken into public ownership and turned into a country park.

The unpopularity of the scheme may also by

(Continued on page 11)

Law centre again

THE REVELATIONS in Freep 25 about the mix-up over the proposed Manchester law centre were soon overtaken by events. It now appears that the initiative for the centre has been taken out of the hands of the original community-based steering committee and given to the Manchester Law Society. On the recommendation of the council policy committee, the Law Society has been invited to submit an application for money to the urban aid programme. The Society have agreed to discuss the centre with the steering committee and to involve them in it, but they want to retain a firm control over how it is run. At the same time another site has been found in Longsight Public Hall- after the cock-up with the Ardwick building.

There could still, however, be hitches before the centre is finally opened. The Lord Chancellor is currently reviewing the national policy for city law centres and his thinking at the moment is against those which are controlled by the Law Society. There will doubtless be more tortuous manoeuvring to report in the next issue.

George moves up a league

BUSINESS is looking up for former Tory councillor George Robinson who runs a demolition firm from Crane Street in Ancoats. He has just landed a contract to knock down houses in the Marlfield Street CPO area between Blackley and Harpurhey, as well as an old mill and the Upton Street fire station. But things weren't always so rosy for Robsinson, who was last given a council CPO demolition contract as long as three years ago. The Carter Street job in Moss Side led to a stream of complaints against Robinson's heavy-handed men. People claimed that houses were not bricked up within a week of becoming empty; and that rubble was burnt in terraces where people were still living. Both these practices were contrary to contract.

It took a great deal of pressure from the Moss Side Housing Union before matters improved. And after the contract was finished the council did not invite Robinson's firm to tender for any more for about a year.

Marlfield Street play area: a house not bricked up and used as a local tip

There were, however, other fields to conquer. A year later Robinson won a contract to knock down an old viaduct in Rochdale with explosives. Freep readers will recall that that job ended in Rochdale's biggest civil emergency, as hundreds of people had to be evacuated when the first arch went up without warning. Robinson was taken to Rochdale magistrates court charged with failing to appoint a competent person to carry out the work. He was cleared because the borough engineer said he knew a competent person had been given the job to supervise the work. The arch, nevertheless, was detonated before any warning was given to the police or the engineer's department.

Since those unhappy incidents, Robinson has cultivated a much more civilised image. He has moved into civil engineering as well as demolition. At the same time he has been able to win the support of several eminent people in the city. Among the directors of his two companies, George Robinson Demolition Ltd., and George Robinson (Manchester) Ltd., is none other than Sir Matt Busby. Sir Matt joined the boards last October.

Another director on the board of the demolition firm is Charles Locke MBE JP and chairman of the licensing justices.

Must a child be killed

MORE THAN a year has gone by since residents of Clitheroe Road and Duncan Road in Longsight began a campaign to have the two streets closed off to through traffic. But the town hall, and in particular the city engineers'department, has refused to meet the residents to discuss the problem. Last July the residents carried out a traffic count which showed quite clearly that Clitheroe and Duncan Roads are heavily used during rush-hours by drivers escaping the congestion at the junction of Slade Lane and Stockport Road, and at the point where Hamilton Road meets Slade Lane. The two streets are narrow, have no garaging facilities and no play areas for children: three 3-year old girls have been knocked down in the last 18 months.

The residents have petitioned the mayor, the chief constable, the chairman of the highways committee, and have written to the city engineer and (again) the highways committee. These approaches have met with no response from the town hall except generalisations about the fact that Clitheroe and Duncan Roads aren't the only streets with traffic problems. The highways committee have decided to instal lights at the Hamilton Road/ Slade Lane junction but the residents fail to see how that will make the slightest difference to their problems.

The residents have twice blocked off the streets in an attempt to draw more attention to their case. The demos have attracted a certain amount of publicity - but as yet no action from the town hall.

Freep's reporter was passed from official to official in that labyrinthine building; each denied responsibility for the question. The buck stopped at the city engineer's department - and we continue to wait for the promised "I'll call you back with the information."

As a placard said at the last street demo: MUST WE WAIT FOR A CHILD TO BE KILLED?

play street for through traffic

An offer they can't refuse

MANCHESTER COUNCIL has been forced to pick up an unexpected bill for at least £111,300 because of a dispute between two private companies. The dispute centres round a £1.9 million multi-storey car park and hypermarket in Wythenshawe town centre.

Woolworth wanted to build a Woolco store in the centre and the council wanted a car park. Because of the limitations on the site the council made a deal with Woolco: they could have their store if the car park was built on top and the cost would be split down the middle. In July last year a tender from the Manchester building firm Holst & Co (Northern) Ltd., was accepted on a fixed price basis and a contract between Holst and Woolco was drawn up.

Then the problems started. On July 18 Holst said they could start the work on October 11 but it was not until October 12 that Holst applied to the Department of the Environment for a building regulations "waiver." This was necessary before the foundations work could start. The DoE did not grant the waiver - which should have been given as a matter of course - until February this year. So it is not surprising that very little work was actually done on the site.

The delays and, according to Holst, the problems caused by the energy crisis, led them to ask for a renegotiation of the contract on a fluctuation basis ie they wanted more money for the job. On April 24 Holst threatened to "run down the site establishment" and not carry out any more work until the contract was changed.

Woolco and the council were put on the spot. They reckoned that if the work was given to a new builder, the cost would be more than £535,000. On a fluctuation basis the cost would be an extra £222,600 plus £94,000 which Holst claimed they had already incurred. In each case the extra would be split two ways. To avoid a whopping bill of £¼m the council opted for the new contract with Holst.

The curious aspect of the whole affair is that Holst started preliminary work on the site before any contract was signed. The fixed price contract was never formally completed because of the problems about the waiver and other minor points concerning planning permission and bye-laws.

Under the council's financial regulations, clause 6.6, no work can start on a job until the contract has been sealed by the contractor. In this case, these regulations could not be enforced because the contract was between two private companies. And in the end, of course, it isn't the Wythenshawe shoppers who benefit.

Asbestosis: Cape gets off lightly

JULY 10 saw the first asbestosis case since 1971 come before the courts. The case was Buick - v Cape Insulation Ltd. It was heard in Manchester before Judge Hollings. Mr Buick first started to suffer from the effects of this crippling disease nearly 20 years ago. It was caused by working with asbestos at Acre Mill in Hebden Bridge. As Judge Hollings said: "Very properly the defendents (Cape) have accepted their liability to compensate Mr Buick." The history of the Hebden Bridge tragedy, Cape's disregard for the safety of its employees and the Factory Inspectorate's failure to enforce the Asbestosis Regulations, were therefore not mentioned. The court was only concerned with how much money Mr Buick should get.

He was awarded a total of nearly £25,000 but what the national press failed to point out is that more than 60% is to reimburse Mr Buick for his actual losses - both his past and future earnings loss He stopped working in 1972 because of his illness and it is highly unlikely that he will ever work again. Mr Buick is 53.

By the time he dies he will have been suffering from the disease for over 30 years, but for that pain and suffering Mr Buick only got £9,100. The seven awards made to other people in the 1971 Court of Appeal case were between £6,000 and £8,000 for pain and suffering. In his judgement, Judge Hollings referred to the 1971 awards but said he could not make a direct comparison between those and Mr Buick because the 'unique factor in this case is the length of time he has suffered.' Despite this the judge arrived at his figure of £9,100 by taking the sum of £7,000 (which he estimated Mr Buick would have got in 1971) and increasing it by 30% to cover inflation to 1974. If the 'unique factor' was indeed taken into account, one would have expected a much higher figure.

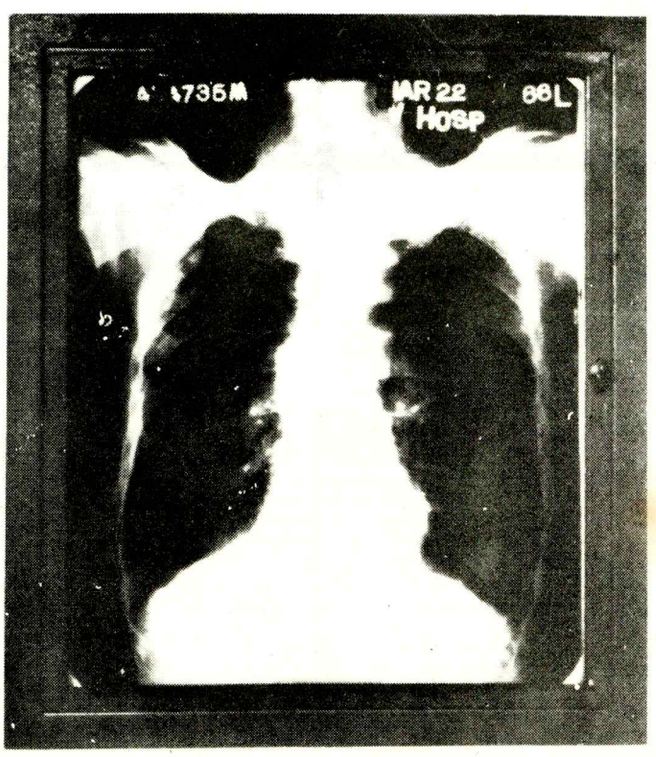
For instance, the day before his judgement, another pneumoconiosis case was heard in Birmingham before Judge Mocatta. In that case the disease was caused by foundry dust. Asbestosis is just another form of pneumoconiosis caused by asbestos dust.

The symptoms are similar. In that case Mr Jenks, who is 65, has only been suffering for about 4 years and his life expectancy has not been reduced. He got £9,000 for pain and suffering. The same as Mr Buick.

Dr Bertram Mann, who gave evidence in Mr Buick's case, has treated about 140 asbestosis cases from Acre Mill. He described the Yorkshire valley as having been "smitten by an epidemic."

That epidemic is by no means over. New cases of asbestosis are coming to light every day and in all it is estimated that more than 300 people will eventually be affected.

Cape are still getting off lightly.



Housing squabble

Manchester's new housing director R Goodhead had some big ideas when he came north from Southwark earlier this year. Goodhead wanted to build up a comprehensive housing service which could handle all the problems in areas of stress. This was very much in line with progressive thinking on the subject. Too often areas of bad housing were dealt with by different local authority departments with resulting confusion and uncor-ordinated planning. Goodhead, therefore, began to press for some of the powers traditionally enjoyed by the health department - particularly the control of improvement grants. But he hadn't reckoned with the new director of environmental health E Foskett who, as chief public health inspector until April did his best to kick the gypsies out of the city's clearance areas.

Foskett put up a fierce opposition to any erosion of his powers and as a result he has retained control of improvement grants while housing have been left to merely identify housing improvment and action areas. The reason behind Fockett's attitude may be traced back to his days with Stoke-on-Trent council when Goodhead was his student.

Court on the hop

COURTAULDS have had a record year for profits in 1974 - rising from last year's record of £52 million to £84 million. And this was despite the three day week. But during the energy crisis Lord Kearton, the chairman, sent a letter to about 600 of his Northern textile division staff stating: "It will come as no surprise to you that the company has been severely hit by the Government's emergency measures." The letter went on to say that because of the crisis "due notice is hereby given to suspend the operation of your current contract by terminating it for the time being, but you are now offered continued employment .... on the same terms except that payment will be on a daily basis..We are sure you will agree that the temporary change in terms of employment is justified in the long term interest of all concerned to secure the continuing viable operation of your company." (Our emphasis.) The workers weren't even guaranteed a three day week.

As a result of that letter at least 4 men left the company and claimed redundancy and/or unfair dimissal payments from their employers. The case of Khan against Courtaulds was heard on June 5 before the Industrial Tribunal. Mr Khan, who lives in Blackburn, won the case and was awarded redundancy payment

NO DEAL

Courtaulds argued that the alternative offer of employment was suitable in the circumstances and that Mr Khan was unreasonable in refusing it. The Tribunal did not agree. They held that it did not amount to a contract of employment at all. There are more cases to be heard on July 26.
Meanwhile Lord Kearton is using other tactics to put the frighteners on his workers. In his annual statement on July 17, he said that redundancies among the 30,000 in the nylon side may be unavoidable because of the Flixborough explosion.

Continued from Page 2

hardly be beyond his powers to give some general explanation of the IMG position - in political terms - without laying himself open to police persecution.

Mandel repeatedly evaded questions asked by Freeps reporter on the current political situation in Britain, preferring to give lengthy accounts of the movement in Italy and France. The report which appeared in Freep was an accurate account of the answers given by Mandel to Freep's questions. Unfortunately, lack of space precluded a full report on Mandel's statements or of IMG's position. Mike Hutton's letter (Freep 25) was very interesting, but the main part of it had no connection with Mandel's press conference.

Front approaches

WE'RE reliably informed that the National Front is about to step up its campaigning in the North West. It appears they are going to try and hold some sort of demonstration in Burnley in the near future. Whether these plans will be affected by the increasing

signs of dissension in the ranks of the NF is not clear (it was noticeable that parts of the NF from the south coast and the West Midlands stayed away from their rally in Red Lion Square.) Nevertheless, Burnley beware! NF demos, as we know, have a way of getting out of hand. Don't forget that Martin Webster said after Red Lion Square: "Next time we may come with cudgels."

Rent gaffer's rent gaffe

MAY we recommend Mr L J Nilsen, Manchester's erudite rent officer, to readers in need of a stimulating exposition on the workings of capitalist economies.

Freep had the good fortune to experience at first hand the wit and wisdom of this gent when present at a recent informal discussion about an application for a rent rise from landlords R W Willan of Sale. (Motto: "We're just a family firm interested in providing homes for people.") The rise asked for was a savage 35% on one of their Manchester flats. The luckless tenant faced with this grim prospect argued that since the flats were about 20 years old the landlords had evidently made a handsome profit out of them by now and there was little cause for increasing their return even further. Mr Nilsen replied: "You mean to say that a family who had lived in a house for 50 years and had paid the price of the house 3 times over should be immune from rent increases?" When answered in the affirmative, the dapper rent officer bounced back with an economic argument, breathtaking in its depth. "Imagine," he began, "that 20 years ago you had invested in Rolls Royce shares while someone else invested in Marks and Spencer shares. By now you would be broke while he would be a very rich man. He had made a 'wise' investment and therefore deserved all he got.

"Likewise Mr Willan had made a wise investment in property which had since escalated in value. Even landlord Willan was embarrassed by this naked defence of profiteering and speculation and hatily attempted to detract the rent officers gaffe by muttering about inflation, interest rates and maintenance costs. Later the rent rent was increased by 35%.

Kids making it

A NEW arts centre for Moss Side kids, set up by the Manchester University Settlement, is looking for people interested in any branch of the arts who'd like to work with the kids in the evenings or at weekends. The Centre, at 396 Moss Lane East, consists of a large Victorian house with a basement and three floors, and there will be room for pottery, music, drama, art and photography. There will also be a large garden at the back, and eventually the Centre will take in the house next door as well. Most of its ground floor will be turned into a theatre.

The Centre's full-time organiser Chrissie Farley told Free Press: "We want this to be a place where children can come and make things or do things in an informal atmosphere and where there are people enabling them to be creative rather than teaching them or pushing them in any direction."

Chrissie hopes to open the Centre in early October. She stresses that it's not meant to be in competition with existing youth clubs in the area, but that it's a place designed for definite activities - the kids will be able to go away with things they have made on their own. She said: "This is a tremendous opportunity to put skills and materials at the disposal of the kids."

It's a serious, long-term project which doesn't expect instant results. If you want to know more about it (especially if you have some experience of working with children) contact Chrissie at the Centre or ring 226 4285/6.

10,9,8,7,6,5, 4,3 Contact

CONTACT THEATRE group, which for the past 18 months has been dividing its time between producing plays in the University Theatre and taking dramatic programmes and workshops round Manchester schools has suddenly found itself a victim of severe financial restrictions. The group's £20,000 grant from the Arts Council ran out in April this year. The council decided that a grant for the coming year would be conditional on improvements being made in the group's working conditions - it should have, for example, its own premises for rehearsal and performance, rather than having to share facilities with the University.

Contact's governing board consists mainly of bigwigs from the University; and a compromise was eventually reached after lengthy discussions with the Arts Council to the effect that Contact would get the Old Music School Annexe as a permanent home.

At this point the Arts Council decided to grant the company £22,000 - a 10% rise on last year. This increase, however, represents in real terms a cut of about 5-10% because of increased costs of materials (such as timber) and because of a recent 20% rise in actors' wages negotiated by their trade union, Equity.

Unfortunately, the Arts Council decision didn't come through till the end of June - only afew days before the end of Contact's season. A number of the group's actors were left high and dry and workless rather more abruptly than they expected.In fact the company is being forced, because of rising costs and the reduced grant, to cut its complement of actors from the present 10 to a mere three - in the hope of being able to build up again in the course of the year.

Although the group also get money from the city education committee and Cheshire, the Arts Council is the main donor. Sadly, it seems way out of touch with the costs of keeping such a valuable venture together.

Swan lake

SIXTEEN years ago Len Jones and his wife moved into a council house in Wythenshawe which, they remember, had previously been the site of a duck pond. Every year since then they have had to redecorate the house in Greatfield Road from top to bottom because of the damp. And for the past 12 years they have been on the transfer list.

Despite the fact that Mr Jones is registered disabled, repeated attempts to get moved or to have the house fixed have met with little response from the council.

The Joneses and their three children have had to put up with rotting curtains, fungus climbing up the walls and mould behind the furniture. They have been forced to spend hundreds of pounds on keeping the damp down by extra heating and decorations. The health inspector agrees that something should be done - but he refuses to serve the required "notice" on his own council.

Responsibility for this amazing state of affairs rests with the housing department whose housing survey section is supposed to tell direct works what repairs should be carried out. A spokesman for the housing survey section told Free Press: "It's up to the directs works now that we've passed it on." Mr Mundy, deputy director at direct works told Free Press: "Yes, there does seem to be a history to this house. We are going to fit a vent-axia either this week or next. The trouble is we sometimes have difficulty gaining access and we can only do what the housing department tells us." Mr Mundy's department has already analysed the problem as "excessive condensation." Will a vent-axia get rid of this, we asked. "It will help to alleviate the problem," said Mr Mundy.

Mr Mundy was unable to say what other work his department had done over the past 12 years. The Joneses, is seems. will just have to go on complaining. But even that is getting more difficult these days. Complaints are normally made through the rent collector and he has been told "not to call at the Joneses." Recently they had to go out and press the rent on him.

WOMEN'S ILLNESSES

A GROUP OF WOMEN in Manchester are finding out about alternative forms of health care in order to get the best treatment for all women from the National Health Service. One of the group has written this article on the subject for Free Press. 'Women's Illnesses' appear to be rather mysterious to the medical profession. Either they are an unavoidable part of being a woman or they are not really medical illnesses but just the excuse of neurotics.

HAVE A BABY

Yet when we come to psychoanalysis, women's neuroses are accounted ofor by their biology. "Hysteria" comes from the Greek word for womb (thus hysterectomy). They tell us our problems come from not being able to or not having children : "Have a baby - it'll give you something to occupy yourself with."

CYSTITIS

It is important for us to know about our bodies ourselves so that we are not at the mercy of an unsympathetic doctor. But also by taking knowledges into our own hands we can change the nature of medicine from being curative and tied to the drugs industry to being preventative and easier for people to do simple procedures for themselves. An example of where this has started to happen is with cystitis. Thousands of women suffer from this painful infection of the bladder and urinary tract and most of them have not had much help from their doctors. Anti-biotics are often useless and sometimes aggravate the condition. Potassium citrate is sometimes given to reduce the acidity of the woman's body but much better techniques of relieving attacks are suggested by Angela Kilmartin, herself a cystitis sufferer (but not a doctor) and founder of the U & I Club (urinary infection). In their bi-monthly paper ways of preventing as well as relieving attacks are worked out, based on personal experience and a basic knowledge of the mechanics of the infection.

For instance, instead of indiscriminately taking the potassium citrate prescribed by the doctor she suggests sufferers test their urine with ordinary litmus paper and if the result is definitely acid, take a teaspoonful of bicarbonate of soda. She explains that acidic urine can aggravate the irritation of cystitis. She gives a list of "things to do with an attack of cystitis."

ADVICE

The advice Angela Kilmartin gives for urinary infection sufferers is also good for any other woman as it helps us to keep the environment of the perineum (the area of the vagina and the anus) healthy. A benevolent bacteria lives in the lining of the vagina called lactobacillus. This produces a slightly acid environment which acts as an antiseptic against infections and also helps keep the monilia or yeasts at bay which can also cause a discharge. This natural resisitance can be destroyed in several ways. Firstly we should wash the vagina with clear water, not with soap which is alkaline. Also, very important, we should not use vaginal deoderants which have the same effect as soap and can sometimes cause infection when used before intercourse. These products are sold by capitalising on women's inbred fears about the natural smell of their sexuality. The pill can cause an increase in yeast in the vagina and so can anti-biotics - for instance a course taken for flu. Some women find spermicidal foams irritating to the vagina and there is a suspicion that the intra-uterine device works by setting up an infection in the uterus.

SELF HELP

The idea of self help is to demystify madicine, to seize our bodies back from the doctors. We learn about our bodies and how they work so we can demand health care that we know is in our best interests.

Most contracpetives are far from ideal for the users. But there are new techniques of contraception which do not interfere with our hormones or give us pain or discomfort. For instance we can use the enzymes present in the cervical mucus plug to tell us exactly when we are ovulating. Enough money is not available for research into new, simpler, "woman-controllable" contraceptives because the drug firms are the main financiers of research and they want to make their super-profits out of pills and prescriptions. Women in America have reacted to the private health service by developing their own contraception-cum-abortion technique of gently extracting the contents of the womb around the first day of the period with a very simple vacuum device - the speculum which is now available in this country. Also there are people in the US and here who are working on the idea of natural childbirth. The aim of this is that women control the process themselves - what form of pain killer they want - rather than being "delivered by" the obstetrician and midwife

For information phone the Women's Liberation Centre 218 Upper Brook Street, 273 2287 7.30-9pm Monday to Thursday. Women & Health Group meetings Mondays fortnightly 400 Moss Lane East. July 29 the meeting will be on the childbirth experience. U & I Club c/o Angela Kilmartin 22 Gerrard Road, London N1.

FOR DAY OR NIGHT WEAR

Physicians recommend them on account of their curative properties. They furnish a wonderful remedy for Sleeplessness, Nervousness, General Debility, Indigestion, Rheumatism and Paralysis, their effect being exhilarating to the wearer. Price (according to the number of insulated plates) $3 & $12 each; abdominal, $15 each. Send for descriptive circular. For sale by leading retailers.

THOMSON, LANGDON & CO., N. Y., SOLE MANUFACTURERS.

Cyril's class mobility

Cyril Smith must be a busy man. But he does not let this prevent him from enjoying exercise to keep himself in the peak of condition. For instance when the man went to London by train on June 25 he behaved in a most energetic fashion. Having embarked on to the train through a door of a second class carriage, he then walked down the train agilely avoiding luggage and people to rest from his exertions in a first class seat. When the train arrived at Euston he performed the same ritual in reverse, alighting through a second class door. Readers may think this strange since as, now on the platform, he had to turn round and walk past his first class carriage. Perhaps if all BR passengers behaved in this way we might see less overweight people. Keep it up Cyril. There's obviously method behind your madness.

Five kids homeless after parents jailed

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL for Civil Liberties has taken up a disturbing case in Salford where a man has been jailed by a confession he denies making. Two days later his wife was also jailed - leaving their five children without a home. Free Press first highlighted the Doyle family three months ago (Issue 23) after their house in the Weaste area had been raided several times by the police. The Doyles are a gypsy family who decided to settle down in a house to try and give their kids a more stable upbringing. During one of these raids the house was turned upsidedown by the police. Several charges were made against Patrick Doyle and his wife. A charge of prostitution against Mrs Doyle was dismissed by Salford magistrates, yet in the latest court appearance the police still proceeded with a charge against Mr Doyle of living off immoral earnings.

CONFESSION

The more serious charge of armed robbery against Mr Doyle was heard at Manchester Crown Court on June 24. He was found guilty and sent down for four years. He was convicted on the strength of the confession the police say he made to them on the morning of January 23. The statement was taken by PC G Barry Prince.

It said that Mr Doyle and a friend went down to the Regency Club with three women who "set up" another man to rob afterwards. Mr Doyle pleaded not guilty to the charge and denied that he had ever made the confession part of the statement.

Mr Doyle is unable to read or write and he is also a severe alcoholic. People who know him say his condition would make it impossible to commit such a crime. Curiously, the incident was never reported to the police. They learned about it three weeks afterwards from an undisclosed source.

CONVICTED

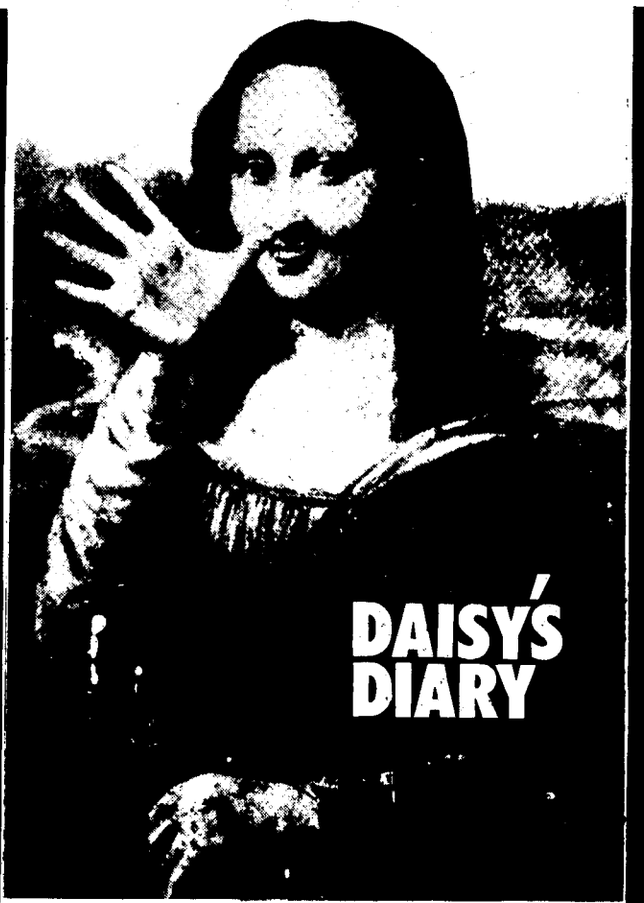
Having been convicted of the robbery, Patrick's barrister strongly advised him to plead guilty to a further charge of living off his wife's immoral earnings, in order to get a concurrent sentence for that offence. All those people who know Mrs Doyle, including social workers, are convinced she was not on the game.

Two days later Mrs Doyle was convicted of a number of thefts and jailed for 18 months. She pleaded not guilty.

Of their five children, the two eldest girls aged 14 and 12 are staying with relations. The two eldest boys aged 10 and 9 are in the care of the local authority and the 3 year old boy is in hospital. When he is released he will also be taken into care.

A spokesman for NCCL said the case had been sent to the Doyle's MP Frank Allaun.

NCCL are compiling a file on police activity in Salford and would be grateful for any information about cases which might cause concern.



Manchester owes a lot to the tireless efforts of Joe Dean, former leader of the city Labour group until he took up the arduous duties of MP in Leeds. So much so, that the last meeting of the highways committee considered naming a street after the great man. Residents in the Beswick redevelopment area, however, can be thankful that Joe Dean Close was dropped in favour of Doric Close. But not without a good deal of embarassment.

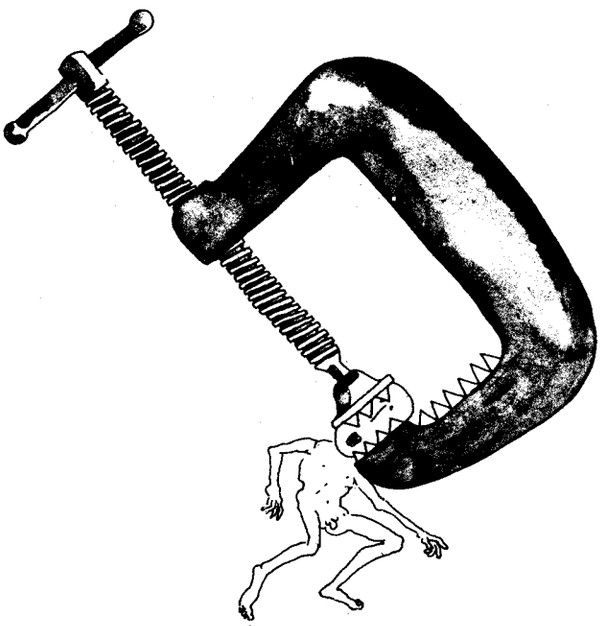
Only a personal intervention by Doge Dean from the House of Commons and by the town clerk, stopped the story being run in a certain local paper. The highways committee decided that it would retain its policy of not naming streets after living persons. But will the Doge plunge from the top of Big Ben to gain such an honour? I think not, since his reputation in the House and the party is not what it ought to be. Members were keenly disappointed to see that the Doge was absent during some crucial debates at the House recently. And at a meeting of the left-wing Tribune group, he was heard to remark that the wicked Tory Housing Finance Act was a good thing as it attracted such generous subsidies from the central government.

The decision to build a new road is usually a well-documented affair with traffic surveys, engineer's reports, official maps, committee minutes and contract details. Not so in Stockport. A road is being built there only five meters from houses in Manvers Street and 11 meters from the Lancashire Hill flats. Councillor Walter Knight, Tory leader of the new council says that the road was started by the old council and nobody knows who was responsible for it. The flats can't come down and the road can't be stopped. Residents can soon look forward to a future of lead poisoning.

The case against headshrinkers

Estelle Beninson, a member of the Mental Patients Union in Manchester explains the aims of the MPU and shows how traditional psychiatry needs to be abolished.

The Mental Patients Union was started in 1971 by 28 patients in Hartwood Hospital as the Scottish Union of Mental Patients. The title made the word, SUMP, a level below which one cannot sink. The MPU was formally established two years later and there are at present about 50 loosely federated groups in the country operating inside and outside bins and representing about 1,000 mebers - patients and ex-patients.



Why a Union? Mental patients are at the bottom of the social heap. - probably the most totally deprived group of human rights in our society. In the name of their 'best interests' they can be denied any say in what those interests are. They can be deprived of liberty, forcibly treated by hit and miss methods, ECT, leucotomy, drugs which have unmonitored side effects and are irreversible. In spite of depressant drugs which swell the tongue and make one unable to talk, a patient complaints are seen as a symptom of his illness.

Admission to a bin is either voluntarily or on a section of the 1959 Mantal Health Act - on the opinion of two psychiatrists. At first it was considered as enlightened legislation. But the act is in fact devoid of any safeguards. Appeals against admission (after 28 days) have only a one in six chance of success. Patients are often not told about their right of appeal.

In 1970 about 33,000 people were admitted compulsorily. In one Manchester bin, for example, the consultant spends five minutes per week with each patient and he has very little time to reconsider any mistaken decision - unless of course you've got £12.50 per hour or part hour.

Should a patient complain, he is rarely believed. We all have a stereotype response knowing someone is a patient: "What if he imagined it?" This is to advantage of the experts, so called, who are appointed to tell us how to think and what to think. Discredited, confused and humiliated, the patient gets angry and upset - thus providing more evidence of his over-emotional mental condition.

In wider social terms, psychiatry, administered by a privileged elite, acts as an agent of social control and conformity. While a minority of patients are middle-class dropouts, the majority are working class. They are the product of low wages, unemployment and old age with few personal prospects. Psychiatry was born in self-help liberalism of the last century and just as the poor are still blamed for their poverty so the "mentally ill" are taught that their breakdown is just a symptom of their individual illness.

With industrial "therapy" the patient is adjusted back into society by monotonous conveyor belt work at about £4.00 for a 35 hour week. He is fit to rejoin society at its lowest least rewarding level. The psychiatrist then imposes his own views on the patient as being normal and healthly. "X is obviously ill as he prefers not to work.." Or "This young man is immature and sexually promiscuous."

What can the union do?

Individually we are quite powerless in the face of hospital authorites and wider society. So far all reformist groups have tried to help patients but at the same time having the idea that patients are really inadequate. They have not been able to accept the idea of Patient Power. Only by presenting a united front can we expect any improvement in our status. We have to demand that our opinions are as valid as anyone else's.

MPU is working for:
1 The right to refuse treatment; the right to be represented by a member of the union whenever the Mental Health Act is enforced; the right of a patient to wear his own clothing in hospitals- the right to refuse work in the hospital; the right to see visitors, to uncensored letters and phone calls; the right to a free second opinion from a psychiatrist of the patient's choice; the right to effective appeal.

2. To abolish compulsory hospitalisation; to abolish irreversible forms of treatment, solitary confinement and the eventual abolition of the mental hospital and manipulative psychiatry.

3. To expose the myths of "illness", rehabilitation, voluntary treatment.

4. To fight for alternatives such as drop-in/drop-out/ live-in centres without hierarchies and treatment.

We need help in the form of information from patients, written contributions to our journal, leaflet distributors etc.

Contact Norman Clinton, 66 Albert Avenue, Prestwich. 773 6616

FREEPOEM

THE GOOD SHIP NHS

The NHS is in a mess,
that everyone agrees -
but what's to blame, the nurses' claim
or doctors' feudal fees?

"We nurses seek a shorter week
and want a living wage,
and all resent resources spent
on private patronage."

"Consultants we a-top the tree
of medicinal care
earn what we choose, and quite refuse
to take a smaller share."

So as Aunt Jane grows old in pain
and Uncle's in distress
consider who is cheating you
aboard the NHS

About time, too

UNDER the new system of local government in Manchester hostels for the homeless were transferred from the health to the housing department. And on a visit to the three main hostels in the city, members of the housing committee were shocked to find the extremely poor conditions that had existed for some years. They found that Ashton House in Corporation Street, Moorbank in Fallowfield and Walton House in Ancoats all needed immediate as well as long term repairs; improvements in the sanitation; control of over-crowding and a revision of petty rules.

ASHTON HOUSE is for working women, built in 1910 as a common lodging house with five storeys and no lift. Unemployed women, old age pensioners and disturbed women were not allowed in when the Tories controlled the town hall.

The few elderly women who were admitted have been there for up to 24 years - waiting to be rehoused. Members found that only 30 of the 183 "very small" cubicles had lights and that washing and toilet facilities on the upper floors were inadequate. The whole place needed redecoration and was full of broken and delapidated furniture.

WALTON HOUSE is for single men, built in 1898 with cubicles for 415. The committee found "grossly inadequate sanitary arrangements that fall below government standards." Most of the old men - about 75 have been there for over 10 years. As at Ashton House, the Tories stopped admittance for unemployed and pensioners. Together with a £58,000 improvement scheme, this was an attempt to 'upgrade' the hostel by keeping out 'problem' residents.

MOORBANK is for young women and their children. Until recently, women were often put in their and seperated from their husbands. It now only takes women without husbands, but at present there are no admission because of an outbreak of dysentry. In the long term the committee want to replace Moorbank with self-contained family units (Between 10 and 18 familes a week go to the town hall for homes.) The committee found that families had to share rooms, and that the length of stay was 3 to 4 months on average. The rules, which have caused friction in the past (see Free Press 23) are to be revised.

After seeing the years of neglect that homeless people have had to suffer in these hostels, the committee has drawn up a list of immediate repairs and has started a long-term research project into the needs of the homeless - including special provision for socially and mentally disturbed people.

Pay up!

THREE organisations in Manchester dealing with the problems of homlessness amongst very different sections of the community have applied for money under the urban aid scheme. The first is the George Jackson Centre in Withington Road which was set up to help young West Indian kids. The Centre wants £46,000 for a reception Hotel and 16 self-contained units, preferably outside the Moss Side/Hulme area where the main problem lies.

The second is a centre for battered Asian wives following a study by the Council for Community Relations. The council found that Asian women - always cast in a submissive role - will endure a great deal of physical and mental cruelty before they are driven out of their homes to seek help. Husbands who find it difficult to adjust to British racist society often are themselves under stress and and their frustrations lead to wife-beating. The cost of the project - for accommodation and advice - is a grant of £2,250 and £16,168 over five years.

RENOVATE

The third project is Contact which helps homeless girls. They are asking for £5,200 to help renovate a house they have bought in Wilbraham Road to provide accommodation for six unsupported mothers and their kids.

The schemes will go before the full council at the end of the month.

We are all equal?

THE EQUAL PAY campaign is hotting up. APEX (Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff) has drawn up a blacklist of companies trying to avoid the impact of the Equal Pay Act 1970.

Top of the list is a local firm - General Engineering Co(Radcliffe) Ltd. When APEX made a claim on behalf of its female members for progress towards equal pay, the company went to extraordinary lengths to avoid it. Firstly, they offered promotion to the men provided they left the union. Then they introduced a job grading scheme which put the female workers at the bottom of the pay scale - even though in many cases they were doing the same job as men.

The company obviously wants to keep its female clerks among the lowest in the country.

APEX have therefore written to Employment Secretary Michael Foot asking how preliminary references can be made to the Industrial Arbitration Board.

When it has been set up, this board will be responsible for giving rulings and making awards under the Equal Pay Act. APEX intends to refer the situation at General Engineering to the board as soon as it can. In the meantime the company is public enemy No 1.

Since we interviewed Rod Caird for the last issue his book on prison life has been published. It's called A Good and Useful Life, published by Hart-Davis MacGibbon at £3.50

More fun and games

(Continued from page 3)

increased if unscrupulous opponents of the plans become sufficiently incensed to remind the public of an earlier Gillinson Barnett essay into leisure design - that space-age plastic palace of fun, the Summerland Solarium, Douglas, Isle of Man, which burnt down last year causing 50 deaths. Although building specifications in Britain prohibit the use of oroglas and galbestos in the Summerland fashion, it is thought that the damage caused by the fire to Gillinson Barnett's reputation could turn many people against the Reddish Vale scheme.

WELFARE RIGHTS & WRONGS

This is a series-each issue tells you a part of what you need to know to claim Supplementary Benefits.Complete the set, and you should have a useful guide.Part 3 tells you HOW to claim and how MUCH to claim- sorry if you've got to wait in the meantime.Try the people & places list on page 14,or just go and see what happens anyway.

Part 1 should have convinced you that ANYONE can claim -you don't have to be destitute,friendless and deserving.The Social Security Act guarantees assistance to those "whose resources are inadequate to meet their requirements". -That seems to prevent the possibility of suffering or even hardship,but we all know about the SS:either they bully you into accepting a small allowance, or they get rid of you altogether. If they can avoid paying you any money, they will; their golden rule is Pass The Buck.

So, the SS will want to know know:can you help YOURSELF in any of these ways

WORKING
All decent people should support themselves,as soon as possible!If you're unemployed,you must try to get work by registering at an Employment Exchange,except for the sick, women with children and strikers.
If you left your last job voluntarily you get 60% of normal supplementary benefit rates for six weeks afterwards. Strikers can only claim for the support of their dependents(if any), unless they're starving and about to be evicted.

And after four weeks of signing on, no matter how bad the jobs are that you're offered, they are likely to stop your benefit completely because you're being voluntarily unemployed.

LIVING OFF YOUR FRIENDS or RELATIONS
If you are (or could be) even partly supported by your boyfriend, girlfriend, parents, spouse, the SS will try to send you away with nothing. But if you're not, at this moment, they cannot withold benefit.

CLAIMING OTHER BENEFITS
Sickness, unemployment, maternity, widow's benefits, grants for school expenses, rent and rate rebates. You should claim them - if you can - but claim supplementary benefit while you're waiting or if they are not enough. (See part 3)

USING SAVINGS
Of all sorts - cash in the bank/post office, property (house car etc) tax rebates owing, holiday or redundancy pay are all safe. Over £825 your benefit is reduced but not stopped. Strikers do have to claim back-tax before getting benefit.

LIVING OFF WHAT YOU'VE GOT
Your own part-time earnings, your kids' earnings, or even your family's total full-time earnings - none of these disqualify you, but your benefit is reduced by the amount you earn; they only have to help towards the rent, or claim Family Income Supplement. (See Part 3)

TYPES OF BENEFITS

Supplementary benefit
Basically for people without work. A weekly allowance, paid by Giro, at the Employment Exchange where you sign on. (You only go to the local SS office to be interviewed about whether you're entitled to benefit. It includes an allowance for you and everyone else you're claiming for; and a rent allowance - they're decided by the SS, but are usually the standard allowance plus the whole amount of rent that you pay.

Supplementary Pensions
For pensioners - same as benefit, except you don't register for work.

Family income supplement
Also weekly, for families where at least one of the adults has low paid full time work. You get HALF the difference between your family's total gross income & fixed standard levels - (£20 for one kid). Once settled, it last for six months - then you reapply. You're new income is supposed to pay for everything.

DISCRETIONARY ALLOWANCES
Two sorts - discretionary additions - added on to your regular supplementary benefit. 1. Exceptional needs payments: once only payments paid all at one go for items you can't afford out of your weekly income. ANYONE can apply. 2. SECTION 13 (MAGIC!)- "Notwithstanding other sections of the Act, a person in urgent need can be granted an allowance sufficient to meet those needs." (Social Security Act) Urgent need is having no money. ANYONE can claim.

WHAT YOU CAN CLAIM FOR & WHAT THE BENEFITS COVER
Supp benefit, pension or your total income including FIS is supposed to pay one week's cost for food, travel, clothes, heating and everything for everyone claimed for. (but see below). Exceptions: people whose rent pays for some of these eg boarders - so some money is knocked off your allowance. You're always entitled to at least a personal allowance.

HOUSING - rent, mortgages. For these, whatever benefit you're claiming, the SS have a system of classifying people.
1. Householders - Anyone paying for their own place, rent or mortgage, and doing their own cooking ie live independently. Rent payers claim rent allowance (and rates if paid). Owner-occupiers claim rates and the interest on the amount still unpaid on your mortgage.

2. Boaders - people paying for board and lodging all in one claim for this whole amount plus personal allowance.
3. Non-households - anyone living as one of the family (your own family or not). You may be a boarder, but the SS often disbelieve that it's a real commercial arrangement. Claim personal allowance plus non-household rent allowance. You can try claiming more if you're "in need." For dependents claim one third of standard rate.

OLD PEOPLE
It is possible to claim for some/all of the cost of an old people's home

HOSPITAL PATIENTS
Claim rent for your usual room/flat

ARREARS
See below.

REBATES
The SS may tell you to claim rent and rate rebates first. You DON'T have to for at least 8 weeks. But - do find out whether you'd be better off claiming rebates.

SNAGS
All claimants: the SS may say you're home is too expensive or roomy and refuse to pay part of the rent. Their standard is - what is the usual size and price of rooms/houses in the area and what does the council provide. You have to lump it, move or take in a lodger to pay part of the rent.

DISCRETIONARY ADDITIONS
Weekly. Longterm addition: Given to pensioners almost always; to others after 2 years. HP - to keep up payments on essential items only - not tvs or sofas. Heating - if you spend more that £1.20 pw claim extra. (Or if you're ill and your home is cold etc) Laundry - if you spend more than 10p pw. Domestic assistance - special diets for diabetics, ulcers, TB.

EXCEPTIONAL NEEDS PAYMENTS
The SS always makes another visit if you claim these. They also take into account ALL your savings over £100. If you claim one twice the SS often reduces your weekly benefit because it's supposed to pay for all of these. Clothing . Bedding, furniture etc - you have to try all the voluntary organisations first for second hand stuff. Only if you get nothing from them will the SS pay. Redecorations-materials only. Removal expenses and expenses in looking for work. You must try and get on the Employment Exchange Transfer scheme first. Fuel and rent debts-either you had the debt before claiming and the SS say it's none of their responsibility; or else you didn't use your allowance properly, so why should they help? Either way, they often won't pay unless you're facing eviction. Emergencies-section 13 again: fire, flood. theft etc.

NEXT ISSUE: FACTS? FIGURES & HOW TO CLAIM.

GENUINE WHAT'S NEW

Quiz kids

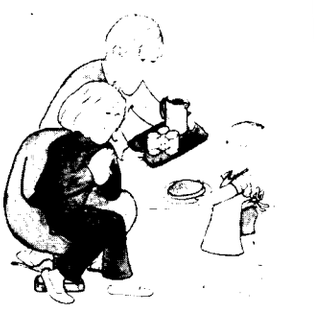
Quiz books are a normal way of keeping children happy & quiet & they can lead them to other books in search of the answers. With both the JUNIOR PUFFIN QUIZ BOOK Dixon, Penguin 30p & the PUFFIN QUIZ BOOK Dixon, Penguin 25p, referring to other books is a necessity. Many of the questions read like something out of a public school general knowledge exam. But nonetheless both books can be entertaining and informative. The age range for these is intended to be 8-10 years and 10-15 years respectively. The Second Picture Quiz Book; Boswell Taylor Knight 30p is, as the title says, a picture quiz. Unfortunately it is spoilt by plain black and white line drawings which tend to make the book appear unattractive and unimaginative - a little bit of colour can make all the difference. A fairly new quiz book is Riddles and Rhymes and Rigmaroles John Cunliffe. Piccolo 25p. It is a lovely collection which if they can be worked out, can still be enjoyed purely as poems.

Maybe baby

THE MAN FROM MAYBE by Leo P Kelly Coronet 35p

In a world populated by simulacra such as Superstud and Marsman, the only real humans - Smith and Rachel- follow a nightmarish existence trying to discover their own identity and purpose. A superb story which maintains a fast pace and leads to a revealing climax. The unpleasant experiences, sharpened by the uneasy conflict between organic and mechanical, have a simple but ultimately disturbing explanation.

Sex roles



In the recent past, the quality of book illustration for the very young has improved dramatically. It's become bright & lively. The same can't be said for the content, in its portrayal of sex roles. The BREAK THROUGH READING BOOKS:12p by Penguin are usually attractive & in terms of linguistic development, well thought out. But the content doesn't match this. All the girls wear skirts & paint, sweep up & help mum while the boys fight & help to clean the car. In MY MUM, the story shows mum continually washing dishes & dad reading the paper in the background. Most of the series follow the same vein, but the price is reasonable.

Against these is THOMAS BAKES A CAKE by Gunilla Wolde. Brockhampton Press 45p. This is part of a series which seems to have the intention of changing the ideas of sex roles. In this volume mum only appears on the last page- to help eat the cake. The series is well worth looking at.
In contrast again is ZERALDAS OGRE by Tomi Ungerer, Picture Puffin 22p. Despite being an enjoyable tale this has the underlying belief that the mean man can be tamed (from eating eating little children), through his stomach & thereby marry the little girl who cooked him all those lovely meals - the way to all men's hearts being via the kitchen.

Toothless traffickers

CHANGING DIRECTIONS: The report of the Independent Commission on Transport. Coronet 75p

This report is produced by a motley crew tanging from John Betjeman to Frank Chapple. The survey of the chaos of the present transport system provides a lot of useful information. The starkest facts, not surprisingly, relate to the private motor car. Between 1958 and 71 over one million people were killed or seriosuly injured in road accodents. Today it is calculated that one third of the population is afflicted by the severe noise from road traffic. The Commission's conclusions are hardly revolutionary but they do point in the right direction. Subsidies are suggested to encourage the use of public transport and the call is made for the setting up of transport consumers councils. Most of the proposals, however lack teeth.

Solzhenitsyn unexpurgated

SOLZHENITSYN: A documentary record. Penguin 50p.

Forget the rush-job biographies and ignore all Sunday supplement articles. This is the one indispensible collection of facts about Solzhenitsyn and his literary-political struggles with the Soviet authorities. Starting from Ivan Denisovitch, the editor covers everything from the instant success in 1962 to expulsion from the USSR this year. The book is a collection of legal documents, newspaper reports, letters speeches, memoirs and personal statements from the author himself - and his Nobel Prize address. All very well authenticated, skilfully edited and presented with a running commentary.

THE GULAG ARCHIPELAGO (Fontana 80p) is a different kettle of fish. It has been an instant best-seller - for all those people who like to work up an anti-Communist frenzy. They will be rather disappointed. Although these first two of a seven part study are a monumental human document dedicated to all those who were tortured, shot and exiled under Stalin, Solzhenitsyn's main attack is on those who refused to say No to the tyranny. He shows their weakness and cowardice in the face of a monolithic regime. Yet the whole business of secret police, double agents, torture, murder and imprisonment without trial is going on still - within the boundaries of the UK. But because it is happening across the Irish Sea, we don't get so worked up about that, do we?

ROY JOHNSON.

And...

ALSO RECEIVED

Black Viewpoints Mentor 60p with du Bois, Dick Gregory, Malcolm X, Luther King and Cleaver.

Clone by Richard Cooper Quartet 40p. Satirical science fiction of a peculiarly English kind. Alvin the clone in his search for his 3 brothers who possess amaxing powers after a massacre of a Hyde Park "Votes for Apes" rally. What more could you want.

ADS & INFO

WHATWORK

WHATWORK is an information & contact centre covering Manchester and the North West. It concentrates on useful and interesting work that doesn't exploit people like helping people in residential communities, democratic workshops or factories, creative work with kids, community action projects, voluntary work projects etc. Some of the jobs are full-time, some unpaid, some give subsistence, a few pay more. Come & see us at 178 Oxford Road, Mchr14 or ring 273 1189
Tues & Thurs: 12-2; 5.30-7.30.
Wednesday: 2-4.

MENTAL PATIENTS

MANCHESTER MENTAL PATIENTS Union now meets regularly at 178 Oxford Road, Manchester 2 Every Saturday at 3pm.

Further info from Mchr MPU, c/o Estelle Beninson, 2 York Avenue, Prestwich.

PLAY SCHEME

PLAY SCHEME for single parents of school age kids 5 to 11 starting on Monday July 29. Near city centre on the south side. Can take about 20 kids; has a full time worker; small charge. Contact Bob Kellett evgs. 225 0451.

STUDY

ALTERNATIVE "A" Levels. A practical, creative course in drama, music and writing offered with 2 "A" Levels. For further details contact Mike Rooke, Liberal Studies Department, Ashton College of Further Education, Beaufort Road, Ashton-under-Lyne. for start in September. 330 6911 ext 23.

HELP

HELP TO LEAFLET against the Army display at the Manchester Flower Show on July 25 to 27. Alix 225 0103

FESTIVAL

THIRD Windsor Free festival 9 days from August 24

ADVICE

BRADFORD: Rylance Street Area Action Group (esp clearance advice): 223 0181

CHEETHAM HILL: Poly Welfare Rights Stall: Tues and Thurs 5.30-7.30pm Trinity Church Hall, Greenhill Road.

MOSS SIDE: Housing Advice: Moss Side Pastoral Centre, Great Western Street. Mon and Wed 5.30-7pm 226 3886

SALFORD: Rights Stall in market Sat.
Also Community House run by Docks Actions Group. Contact Billy Gill 8 Broadway, Salford 5.

PARTINGTON People's Rights Office Daily 775 6130

SALFORD: Underdog at 83 Camp Street, Salford 7 Tues, Thurs, Fri 12 - 4pm gives advice on SS benefits, supplementary etc.

HOMELESS

HOMELESS IN MANCHESTER need volunteers for their night shelter for single homeless men in the old St Aloysius School in Ardwick. Also needed are three treasurers for HIM, the shelter and the mobile surgery. Contact 19 Duncan Road, Mchr 13.

DANCE

NORTHERN DANCE THEATRE. Advance notice: Aladdin, a new full length ballet, has its premier at the Opera Theatre, Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, on September 4 at 8pm. Then Sept 5-7 at 7.30pm. Sat matinee at 2.30pm. Choreigraphy by Laverne Meyer. Music by Ernest Tomlinson. Design by John Fraser.

LEGAL

RUSHOLME Legal Advice Centre St James Parish Hall, Danes Road, Rusholme. Tuesdays 6.30-9.30pm

UNIVERSITY Legal Advice Centre 178 Waterloo Place (Oxford Road) Manchester 13 273 4575
Mon-Fri 1-3pm.
Tues & Thursd 5.30-7.30

NELLO JAMES Centre, 136 Withington Road Mchr 16. 226 4164. Evening Legal Advice.

LEGAL ACTION Group Contact Jack Thornley (assisted by Jim Waldron) c/o Rowley and Blewitts, 8 King Street, Mch 2 834 4215.

WOMEN

WOMEN'S Rights Group and WOMEN'S Aid Group both c/o Women's Liberation Centre 218 Upper Brook Street, Mchr 13.

WOMEN'S Liberation Information Service Mon- Thurs 7.30-9pm 218 Upper Brook Street, Mchr 273 2287

TRANSPORT

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT will try to help squatters & others with furniture & transport if genuinely needed. We have to make a comparatively small charge cos contrary to public opinion we're not a business & are nearly broke.
Contact : 29 Poland Street, Ancoats Mchr4 205 1473
Or: 25 Stockport Road, Stockport. 477 2301
(See also letters)

CHILD POVERTY

CHILD POVERTY Action Group: Help wanted with welfare rights stall in Stretford. Sec: Peter Hildrew, 13 Grange Ave., Levenshulme.

MEETING

NEW GROUP on N Ireland "There can be no armed solution to the problems of N Ireland, problems which are rooted in social and cultural injustice."
First meeting: July 24 8pm 23 Clitheroe Road, Mchr 13.
Contacts: Cathy, flat 65 Oak House, Whitworth Lane, Fallowfield, Mchr 14. Or Guy 225 0103.

DON'T FORGET

We have moved our address to 8A Raynham Avenue, Manchester 20. 061-434 1591. For all correspondence, requests for display rates and back issues at 5p each (not 1-3).

books — pamphlets — magazines

grass roots
community bookservice

Titles this month include:-

Squatters Handbook 5p
The Lump - An Heretical analysis (Solidarity)
The Hazards of Work - Kinnersly 90p. 15p
Workers Against the Monolith - Birchall £1.50
Unions and Wildcats - (Workers Voice) 5p.
Up Against the Law - 15p.
Fascism & Big Business - D Guerin £1.40
White House Scripts (i) £1.25
CIS Anti Reports
Floodgates of Anarchy - Christie & Meltzer 35p
Blood in the Streets - (PD & Lotta Continua) 40p
Fighting in the Streets - (Lotta Continua) 15p
The Shrewsbury Three - Jim Arnison 45p
Marxism & Feminism - Charnie Chettel (i) 50p
The Myth of Motherhood - Comer 35p
Press Under Apartheid - Alex Hepple 25p
Beyond Theology - Alan W Watts (i) £1.00
Radical Therapist - 60p
Radical Therapist 2 (i) 85p (i) = import
Uncarreers 74 20p
Art & Revolution-Berger (Hardback) 75p
334 ÷ Disch, Beyond the Horizon - Heinlein, The Iron Dream - Spinrad, Earthman Come Home - Blish and most new UK SF titles.
- also papers and periodicals

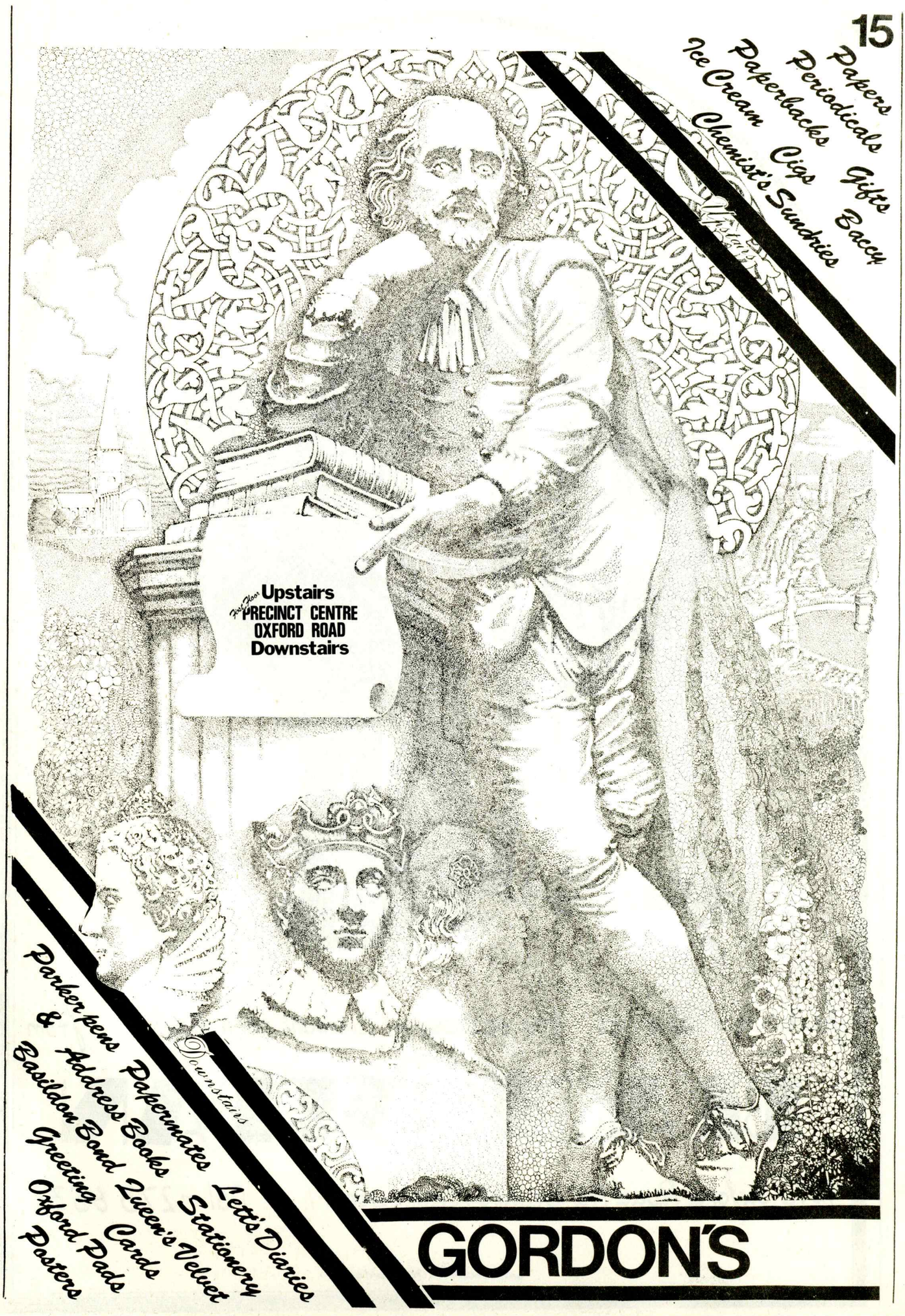
Come & see us sometime.

178 oxford rd

tel. manchester 273 2180

science fiction — claimants — mysticism — education

politics — underground — tenants — poetry — women


15
Papers
Periodicals
Paperbacks
Ice Cream
Chemist's Sundries
Gifts
Baccy
Cigs
Upstairs
1st Floor
PRECINCT CENTRE
OXFORD ROAD
Downstairs
Parker pens Papermates Letts Diaries
& Address Books Stationery
Basildon Bond Queen's Velvet
Greeting Cards
Oxford Pads
Posters
Downstairs
GORDON'S

fourtn in a series on 'the ecstasy of discount rock albums' from

BLACK SEDAN

127a Oxford Road All Saints Manchester 1. 061-273 6534

with thanks to the Slowdancer